



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## 22 Republican Governors Endorse Education Reform Bill

In a letter sent today to Members, 22 Republican governors and Democrat Gov. Roy Barnes of Georgia endorsed the education bill being finalized today. "As Governors, we have served on the front line in promoting educational improvement in our own states," the letter began. "We believe strongly that H.R. 1 will help significantly in furthering this worthy cause throughout the country." Additional excerpts are included below:

"H.R. 1 grants states and local districts unprecedented flexibility and freedom in deciding how federal education funds should be used to meet the unique needs of their students ... Further, states and local districts will be given far greater authority to move funds from certain uses to others they deem to be more effective at achieving improvement in student results."

"[W]e favor the accountability features of H.R. 1. We know that when adults are held responsible for student progress, that progress tends to be greatest. H.R. 1 establishes a comprehensive accountability system, and wisely, it does so in cooperation with the states. States will set their own standards. States will select their own assessments. States will have a great deal of flexibility in establishing the details of how and when the elements of accountability will be implemented for their own schools."

"President Bush has challenged the nation to leave no child behind. Congress responded with H.R. 1, which is grounded in the best practices derived from the states over the past decade. Congress should complete action on H.R. 1 immediately so that every state, district, and school can begin 2002 with a clear and bright beacon shining on their path to improved student achievement."

### Message of the Day

**The H.R. 1 conference agreement focuses on accountability for improved student achievement, expanding choices for parents, new state and local flexibility, and streamlining the federal education bureaucracy.**

- ❑ *Federal education resources should be targeted toward helping disadvantaged students learn to read, learn English, and learn math skills.*
- ❑ *Local leaders know the unique needs of their students, and can make better decisions with federal education dollars than Washington bureaucrats.*
- ❑ *The agreement would provide immediate new private-sector options to thousands of students across America.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The final conference agreement would provide immediate new flexibility for all 50 states and every local school district in America. Seven states and 150 school districts could also participate in flexibility demonstration projects.
- The H.R. 1 conference report would reduce the overall number of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) programs to 45 -- two fewer ESEA programs than in the House-passed bill, 10 fewer ESEA programs than in current law, and 34 fewer ESEA programs than in the Senate-passed bill.
- The proposed final conference report would provide significant new options for any student in a public school already identified as failing under the terms of the 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"This is huge because it means that if you're a parent of a low-income child, and you're stuck in a school that's failed year after year, you're going to be able to get your child special help."* -- **Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH), Los Angeles Times, December 11, 2001, on a provision to allow Title I funds to be used by parents with children in failing schools to obtain supplemental educational services for their children**